

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A color cathode ray tube comprising:  
a panel provided with a phosphor screen;  
an electron gun for emitting an electron beam  
5 toward the phosphor screen; and  
a shadow mask assembly located between the  
phosphor screen and the electron gun,  
the shadow mask assembly including  
a shadow mask body having a rectangular effective  
10 portion opposed to the phosphor screen and formed  
having a large number of electron beam passage  
apertures, the effective portion having a major axis  
and a minor axis passing through the center thereof and  
extending at right angles to each other,  
15 a mask frame to which the periphery of the shadow  
mask body is fixed, and  
an auxiliary mask in the form of a strip extending  
in the direction of the minor axis, fixed to a region  
containing the minor axis of the effective portion, and  
20 having a number of electron beam passage apertures  
communicating individually with the electron beam  
passage apertures of the effective portion.
2. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1,  
wherein said auxiliary mask is fixed to a region having  
25 a width equal to about  $1/3$  of the length of the shadow  
mask body in the direction of the major axis and  
situated in a longitudinal central region of

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the effective portion containing the minor axis.

3. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 2,  
wherein said auxiliary mask has a central axis  
extending in the longitudinal direction thereof and is  
5 located in a manner such that the central axis overlaps  
the minor axis of the shadow mask body.

4. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 2,  
wherein said auxiliary mask is in the form of a strip  
having a lengthwise dimension greater than the length  
10 of the effective portion of the shadow mask body in the  
direction of the minor axis and a crosswise dimension  
smaller than the length of the effective portion in the  
direction of the major axis.

5. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 4,  
15 wherein said shadow mask body has a skirt portion  
provided around the effective portion and bent along  
a tube axis, and said auxiliary mask has an effective  
portion formed having the electron beam passage  
apertures and non-effective portions provided  
20 individually at the opposite ends of the effective  
portion with respect to the direction of the minor  
axis, the non-effective portions of the auxiliary mask  
being bent so as to be superposed on the skirt portion  
and fixed to the skirt portion.

25 6. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1,  
wherein said auxiliary mask is formed of a material  
having a coefficient of thermal expansion substantially

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equal to that of the material of the shadow mask body.

7. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary mask has a thickness equal to or greater than that of the shadow mask body.

5           8. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 5, wherein the length of the effective portion of said auxiliary mask in a longitudinal direction thereof is greater than the length of the effective portion of the shadow mask body in the direction of the minor axis.

10           9. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein each electron beam passage aperture of the auxiliary mask has an aperture diameter larger than that of each electron beam passage aperture of the shadow mask body with respect to at least one of the  
15           respective directions of the major and minor axes.

          10. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary mask is provided on the electron-gun side of the shadow mask body, and the space between the electron beam passage apertures of  
20           said auxiliary mask is smaller than the space between the electron beam passage apertures of the shadow mask body with respect to at least one of the respective directions of the major and minor axes.

          11. A color cathode ray tube according to  
25           claim 10, wherein each electron beam passage aperture of the shadow mask body is formed of a larger hole opening on the phosphor-screen side and a smaller hole

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opening on the electron-gun side, and each electron beam passage aperture of the auxiliary mask is formed of a smaller hole opening on the phosphor-screen side and a larger hole opening on the electron-gun side.

5           12. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein said auxiliary mask is provided on the phosphor-screen side of the shadow mask body, and the space between the electron beam passage apertures of said auxiliary mask is greater than the space between  
10 the electron beam passage apertures of the shadow mask body with respect to at least one of the respective directions of the major and minor axes.

15           13. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 12, wherein each electron beam passage aperture of the shadow mask body is formed of a larger hole opening on the phosphor-screen side and a smaller hole opening on the electron-gun side, and each electron beam passage aperture of the auxiliary mask is formed  
20 of a larger hole opening on the phosphor-screen side and a smaller hole opening on the electron-gun side.

25           14. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1, wherein said shadow mask body has a plurality of aperture arrays extending parallel to the minor axis and arranged at spaces in the direction of the major axis, each of the aperture arrays including electron beam passage apertures arranged in the direction of the minor axis and bridge portions situated between

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adjacent electron beams passage apertures, and

5       said auxiliary mask has a plurality of aperture  
arrays extending parallel to the minor axis and  
arranged at spaces in the direction of the major axis,  
each of the aperture arrays including electron beam  
passage apertures arranged in the direction of the  
minor axis and bridge portions situated between  
adjacent electron beams passage apertures,

10       each of the electron beam passage apertures of the  
auxiliary mask having a minor-axis-direction diameter  
twice or more as large as the minor-axis-direction  
diameter of each electron beam passage aperture of the  
shadow mask body, the minor-axis-direction space  
between the electron beam passage apertures of the  
15       auxiliary mask being twice as long as the minor-axis-  
direction space between the electron beam passage  
apertures of the shadow mask body,

20       the bridge portions of the auxiliary mask being  
superposed individually on the bridge portions of the  
shadow mask body.

25       15. A color cathode ray tube according to claim 1,  
wherein said shadow mask body has a plurality of  
aperture arrays extending parallel to the minor axis  
and arranged at spaces in the direction of the major  
axis, each of the aperture arrays including electron  
beam passage apertures arranged in the direction of the  
minor axis and bridge portions situated between

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adjacent electron beams passage apertures, and

said auxiliary mask has a plurality of aperture arrays extending parallel to the minor axis and arranged at spaces in the direction of the major axis, each of the aperture arrays including electron beam passage apertures arranged in the direction of the minor axis and bridge portions situated between adjacent electron beams passage apertures,

the effective portion of the shadow mask body having a superposed region overlapping the auxiliary mask and a non-superposed region situated outside the superposed region,

a minor-axis-direction space between the electron beam passage apertures in the superposed region being twice as long as the minor-axis-direction space between the electron beam passage apertures in the non-superposed region, the minor-axis-direction space between the electron beam passage apertures of the auxiliary mask being twice as long as the minor-axis-direction space between the electron beam passage apertures in the non-superposed region,

the bridge portions of the auxiliary mask being located individually on the bridge portions of the shadow mask body so as to be shifted in the direction of the minor axis by a margin equal to  $1/2$  of the minor-axis-direction space between the electron beam passage apertures of the auxiliary mask.